

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS™ AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 4293, Manassas, Va. 20108-0728
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

April 2026

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026

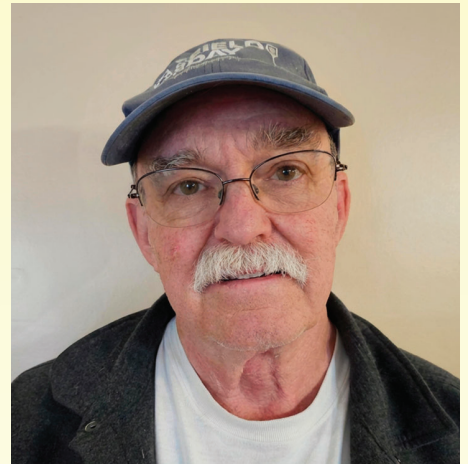
PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Welcome to spring! As it gets warmer, we get closer to our two big events of the OVH year: Hamfest and Field day. As you all know, Hamfest is our only fund raiser and we got bills to pay.

For the first time this year, we will be having the Manassas Hamfest at the Colgan High School which has loads of parking.

We are having a combined Hamfest and Field day planning meeting on Monday April 27 at Hog Shack 10470 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA at 6 pm. Please come and help us with these events.

We have been working on publicizing our hamfest by distributing flyers at the Middle Peninsula Thawfest and the Vienna Winterfest Hamfest. To the left below is George / K4GVT at the OVH table at the Thawfest.



The presentation at our upcoming meeting will be on an RF network with internet like capability by Jason / K4APR. This will include a table full of hardware to demonstrate. Following is Jason's brief description: "Virginia TARPN is a point to point packet network focused on using strictly RF links, without Internet to connect each node. Nodes are owned and located at individual amateur radio operator's QTHs. We also have a focus on building nodes at

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293

Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	789-6449
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	Lynn Timmons	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	703-597-3211

DIRECTORS

George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

HAMFEST 2026 - CHAIR

Theresa	kg4tvm@hotmail.com	KG4TVM	703-257-3566
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FIELD DAY 2026 - CHAIR

John	KG4NXT	703-789-6449
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
Lynn	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net		

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio, education related especially to radio activities, electronics, computers, science and STEM subjects, and public service activities. Copyright © 2026 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20260307

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the lowest cost, to encourage more people to join and participate. Nodes are comprised of a single Raspberry Pi single board computer running the stock Raspberry Pi Linux operating system, with TARPEN specific scripts installed to control the node. Nodes are accessed through a modern web interface, allowing for easy use, without the need to sit right at the node to operate it. TARPEN has been called "Social media for amateur radio". Participating in TARPEN can teach you a vast array of skills, while allowing you to operate with the network as an active user."

Thanks to Lynn / KX4HR for almost daily work on learning how to manage and update the OVH Club website, W4OVH.NET.

We all will miss long time OVH member, Art / W1CRO who is now a Silent Key.

The next OVH meeting on Tuesday April 21 will be on Election day. I urge you all to vote. I will be assistant chief at a precinct and VP Gil / KM4OZH who will run the meeting.

73 John KG4NXT

Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in April: Harry / KC9TXL,

Harry / KN4IJY, Brian / KK4CBS, Gene / KN4JMB, Gil / KM4OZH, Paul / N4PD, Joe / KI4OHR, Lillian / KK4MXV, David / KI4AZX, Paul / W4ZB, David / KD4DEE, Mark / KN4OGC and Paul / KO4UOO.

Very sad news is that on April 1st, Art / W1CRO passed away. Art was a club member for many decades and wore many hats in the club along the way. George / K4GVT is working with Art's wife, Hajia to find new homes for Art's ham equipment. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. I did pull some photos of Art and along with the email stories and condolences, framed everything in a shadow box and gave it to Hajia at the viewing. See Art as a young man in the Coast Guard to the right; several other items I put together from photos and recollections appear later below.



The Vienna Winterfest took place on March 15th. The OVH had a table set up and saw a lot of traffic, George / K4GVT walked around and handed out flyers to all the vendors. John / KG4NXT and I were at the club table handing out flyers and talking to visitors. John and George also went to Thawfest in Greene County, Virginia on April 11th. That was an outside only event which had a nice turnout.

I hope everyone who was able to participate in the Virginia QSO Party in March was able to get their log submitted by April 15th deadline.

Congratulations to George / K4GVT and his YL Ev, they have a new granddaughter, Callie who currently lives in Korea, where her dad is



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stationed so it will be a very sweet meeting for George & Ev when they get to see her in person. Big sister Addy is being a big help to mom and dad! All of this happiness is not to be undone by the arrival of a new puppy at the Tarnovsky house, Toby, just arrived a week ago and is fitting in nicely!



Mark Braunstein / WA4KFZ is hosting another VE session on Saturday, April 18, 2026 sponsored by the OVH. Location: Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd, Chantilly VA, Walk-in time: 8:30 am. Email: wa4kfz@arrl.net

A combined Hamfest / Field Day planning meeting will be held on Monday, April 27th at 6 pm, at the Hog Shack Restaurant, 10470 Dumfries Rd, Manassas.

Manassas Hamfest 2026 – It's coming up fast on Saturday, June 20th. I hate to sound like a broken record but we need club members to help the day of the event, so far we only have a few that have let me know they can help. Please let me know at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or 703-257-3566.

Field Day 2026 – Planning is underway, looking for overnight operators. Please contact John at kg4nxt@arrl.net or at 703-789-6449 for any questions or to help in planning.

In response to one of my emails for help with Hamfest, I heard from Jim Gleason / WE4JJ, a club member we haven't seen in a long while. Jim let me know that he went thru a divorce and moved back to Southern California, where he is from originally. His license expires later this year and he let me know that he plans on renewing but has not been ham active. He has HT's that he is holding on to and hopes to one day get back on the air. He sends his best wishes to the OVH. It was nice hearing from Jim!

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign and mailing address in the member's only section at w4ovh.net

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! kg4tvm@hotmail.com



Thursday night net at 8 pm is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to with their radios!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on March 17, 2026:

President John Heartney, KG4NXT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on March 17, 2026 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns.

The program was an excellent video on quartz crystals shown by John / KG4NXT. The video showed how early radios were plagued by frequency drifting but the problem was solved by adopting quartz crystals. Also shown was the importance of radio crystals in communications during World War II.

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The minutes of the February 18, 2026 meeting were approved.

Membership business – Luther / WA3FMO reported there is no membership business this month.

Repeater Report – Nothing to report

Website Report – Nothing to report. The website is up and running.

John / KG4NXT reported on Field Day. Field Day will be held at Nokesville Community Park. Prince William County has approved the special event application and the insurance certificate is in place.

Gil / KM4OZH gave an update on the Virginia QSO Party. Gil made a challenge to the group that whoever gets the most QSOs, gets his points. Gil encouraged all members of the club to get on the air with their radios for the QSO party. Gil noted that the event starts at 7:00 am and will primarily be worked on 146.580 MHz but may alternatively use 146.520 MHz.

Theresa / KG4TVM and John / KG4NXT went to the Vienna Hamfest. Theresa handed out flyers for the OVH Hamfest. Theresa also reported the volunteers are needed for the OVH Hamfest and that people need to buy tables

Website report. No report this month, but working.

Old Business: None. New Business:None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

May 14, 2026, Thursday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Contest University at Dayton, Ohio. This is not strictly a Hamfest but is a learning event very closely related (in time and place) to the upcoming Dayton Hamvention, just below. The one very full day program, different every year, that is very recommended for those interested in ham radio contest activities, and in constructing very high performance ham radio stations. Full info at ContestUniversity.com

May 15 - 17, 2026 (Friday through Sunday, the Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio. This annual hamfest continues to be one of the largest in the world, and attracts ham visitors from all over the USA, and Canada, and most of the rest of the world. If you are “into” ham radio, you should plan to attend this for at least a single full day at least once. Some hams from this area have gone to the Dayton Hamvention more than a dozen times. More info at hamvention.org

OVH RELATED EVENTS

April 18, 2026 (Saturday), OVH VE Exam Session, Start Time: 0830 at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151. Setup at 0800. Let any would be hams or hams looking to upgrade their licenses know about this.

June 20, 2026 (Saturday). The Manassas Hamfest 2026 is now scheduled. Save the date and plan to volunteer to assist the OVH in making this a successful Hamfest. A lot more info about this will be provided for OVH members on the OVH members only email reflector and for everyone on W4OVH.NET over the next several months.

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June 27 - 28, 2026 - the ARRL / OVH Field Day. The OVH venue this year will again be at the pavilion at the local Nokesville Community Park. This is also an OVH family event, and all family members or other individuals interested or potentially interested in ham radio are invited to attend. There will be a pot luck dinner on Saturday. Portable / temporary ham radio stations will be set up and operated off of generator power. The operations will be in various modes on the HF bands (SSB - voice, CW - morse code, and digital modes) and FM on the VHF / UHF bands. The objective of the radio operation is to make as many two way contacts with other Field Day stations in the USA and Canada as possible during the event, and typically, hundred of contacts are will be made. There are also usually some other events such as technical lectures, fox (hidden radio transmitter) hunts and balloon launches. Save the date! Watch here for more info as the date gets closer.

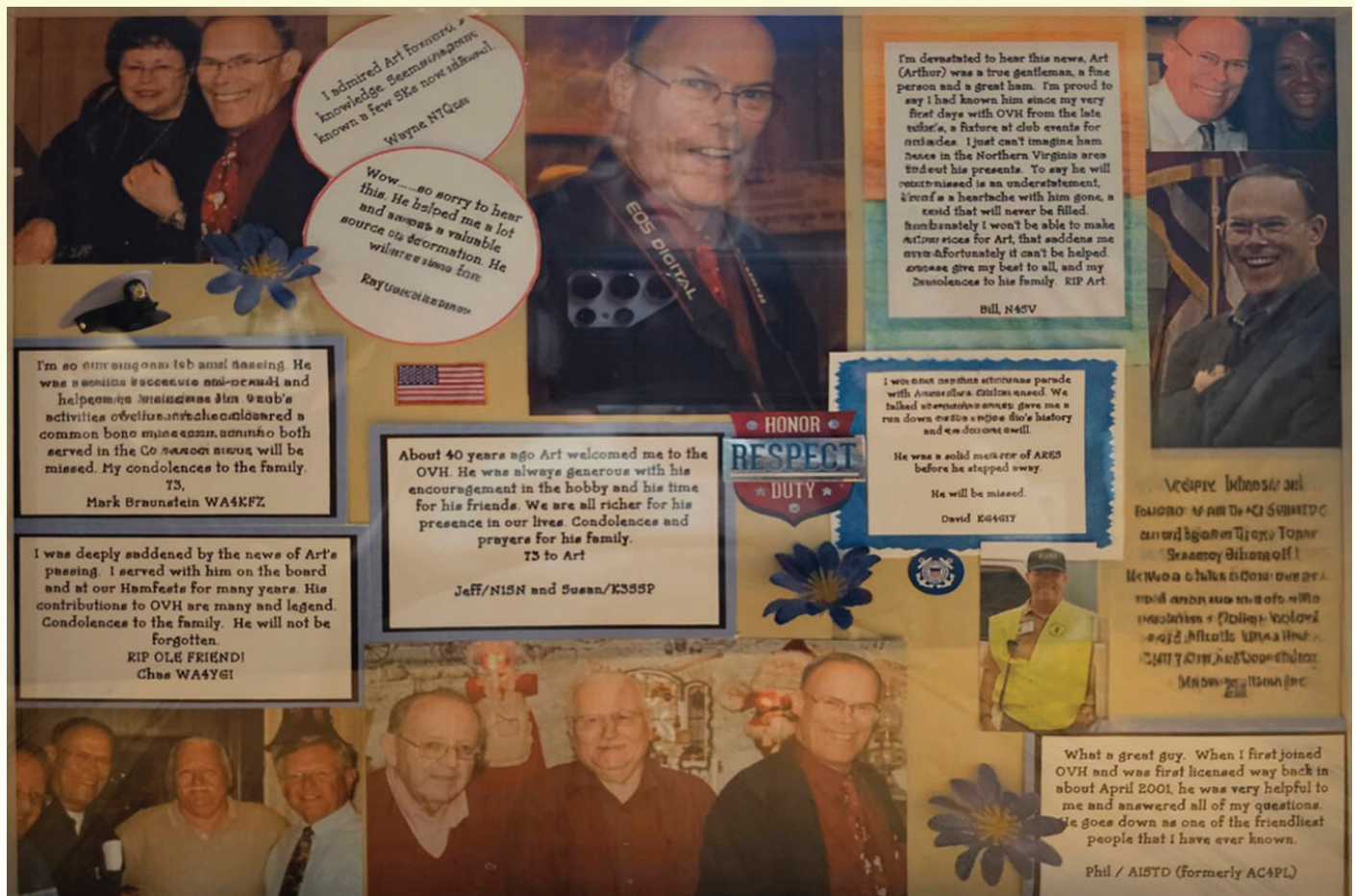
HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page; see also, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more radio contesting info!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcared.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Remembering Art / W1CRO



I first met Art / W1CRO in about 1977/78 when I first moved to western Prince William County from Arlington. Back then, Route 66 was four lanes total, two on each side, just from Gainesville to the Beltway (495), and there was no 66 inside the Beltway. Route 66 was not extended from Gainesville out to Front Royal until about 1980. It was possible back then to drive east on 66 at 6:30 to 8:00 in the morning from Manassas without stopping or backups until about a mile from the Beltway. Very different than now, notwithstanding the massive widening of 66.

Early every weekday morning back then (late 1970s) and later, a bunch of hams from this area initially talked via the OVH 146.97 repeater while driving east on 66 from Manassas, transitioning to other repeaters or direct car to car contact when out of range of the 146.97 repeater. Art was a regular with that group for many years while enroute to his Coast Guard workplace. The phone patch on 146.97 repeater got a lot of use by hams back then, before cellphones, and allowed local calls within PWC which otherwise was long distance from Fairfax County and the rest of the DC metro area.

Art always had something interesting to say or talk about on the radio, he was always very enthusiastic about most aspects of ham radio, and always willing to help other hams, and always very active in the OVH. In his earlier years, he had spent a lot of time at the Chatham, Massachusetts Coast Guard Station on Cape Cod, which for many, many years, now long ago, was a major government East Coast LF and MF CW station, and he had served with the Coast Guard in Vietnam. He had mostly lost his Massachusetts accent with his long time in this area, but it was still detectable when he spoke.

Art will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Paul / W4ZB

COMPLIÉ TO TSCA TITLE VI
CONFORME AU TITRE VI DE LA TSCA

58319
08/2025

RIP
ART
W1CRO
Sharon
K64TVM



OVH at Winterfest

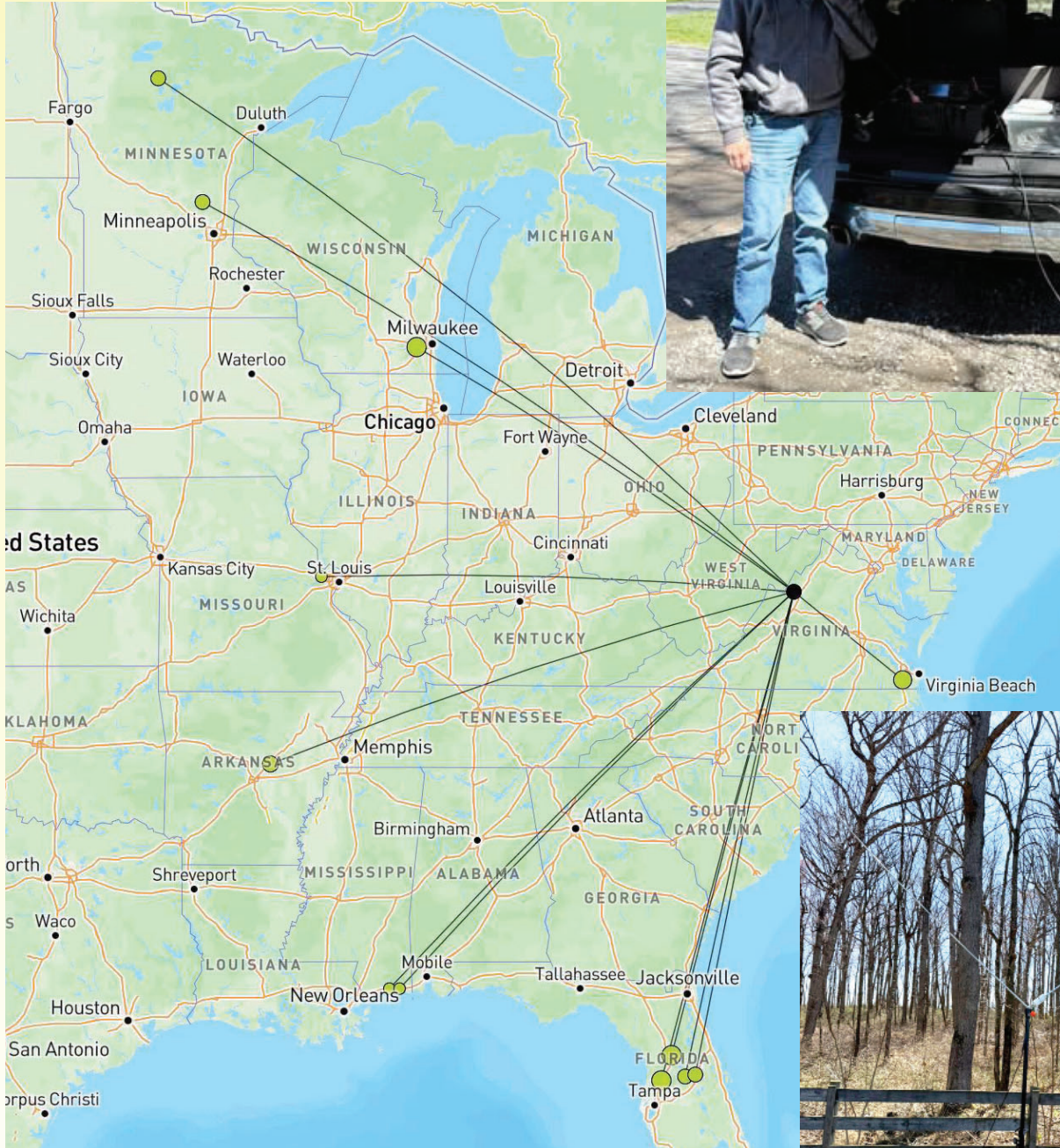
OVH went to Winterfest in nearby Vienna, Virginia; the event is also known as the Vienna hamfest. It was again at the Oakton High School and all tables were sold out. Unlike most other hamfests, this is a BYOC event where you have to bring your own chairs. OVH had a table and distributed flyers for the upcoming Manassas Hamfest in June. George / K4GVT distributed flyers in the tailgate area and also inside. Theresa / KG4TVM also distributed flyers inside. A number of OVH members attended, including Bill / AF4LL, Jim / KM4SXM, Gil / KM4OZH, Bruce / KG4DGX and Karl / W4KRL. This is probably the last time we will see Bill (for a while) as he has taken a job in Kentucky. In recent years, Bill has helped the OVH a lot with making contacts on Field Day. The food prices were impressive (high) - \$4 for a danish and \$15 for a lunch combo. But there were bargains to be had. Some vendors had free boxes of various things. There were also components and old radios. Every one enjoyed the hamfest. A few pictures follow:





George / K4GVT on his first POTA activation

We did it our first POTA activation on our own. Ev was great support staff, Ev gave me encouragement to continue when we couldn't find the first POTA spot, Ev suggested we go to another, that worked out fortuitously. We made 13 contacts, more were possible but we had a time constraint. Thanks to John and Theresa for mentoring.





INDOOR HAMFEST & TAILGATE EVENT

Saturday, June 20th, 2026

[Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School](#)

13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA 20112

**Colgan is a state-of-the-art High School in Prince William County
that was opened in 2016, we will be using doors #33 and #34
Please watch for signage at the school**

GENERAL ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 8 AM
\$10.00 PER PERSON
OVER 14

INSIDE VENDORS
DOORS OPEN AT 7 AM
\$25 PER TABLE
INCLUDES 1 SIX FOOT
ROUND TABLE, 1 CHAIR & 1
ADMISSION TICKET
ADDITIONAL TABLES \$20
PER TABLE

TAILGATE
SET UP AT 7 AM
\$15 PER PARKING SPACE
DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY
ADMISSION TICKETS

VA QSO
PARTY AWARDS

Watch for updated
information and vendor
list at www.w4ovh.net

ARRL TABLE

DOORS CLOSE
AT 12:30 PM



**OLE VIRGINIA HAMS
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB**

**invites the public to
attend the 2026
Field Day Event**

**24 Hour Event
starts 2 pm June 27th
thru 2 pm June 28th**

**Nokesville Park
12560 Aden Road
Nokesville VA
At the big pavilion
past the baseball
fields**

Rain or Shine!

**More Info:
www.w4ovh.net**

**Balloon Launch on
Saturday Afternoon**

**Saturday evening
Pot Luck Dinner at 5
pm - bring a dish to
share**

This is a family event

All are welcome!